



Gladys W. Neff

October 21, 2016

Gladys W. Neff, 97, while in her home in Lancaster, joined loved ones on the other side Friday, October 21, 2016. Born in West Lampeter Township on October 29, 1918 she was the wife of the late Elvin L. Neff who died in 2003. She was the oldest of three children born to Elmer J. and Catharine (Mowrer) Witmer.

Active members of the First Church of God, Lancaster, she and her husband led Junior Church for the children and she also taught Sunday School.

As a lover of children, Gladys taught preschoolers at the Lancaster Day Nursery for 27 years, and afterward at the Willow Street Mennonite Church pre-school.

Throughout her life she maintained a toy room in her home for her little visitor's entertainment. Baking cookies was a favorite pastime and she gladly shared them with many people.

She was a former president of the Lyndon Hospital Auxiliary of Lancaster General Hospital. Gladys also enjoyed many forms of sewing and crafted a lot of teddy bears from former mink coats.

Her family includes daughters: Kay L. Sherman, married to Rev. William A. Sherman of Lancaster and Rev. Nancy M. Ludwig of Hatboro, PA. Grandchildren include Susan (Dale) Guldin, Stephen (Kimberly) Sherman, Eric (Amy) Ludwig and Karen (Ray) Milkewicz. There are nine great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren.

Gladys was predeceased by her brother, Kenneth Witmer, her sister, Nancy Frey and son-in-law, Harry Ludwig, Jr.

Celebration of her life will be Friday, October 28, 2016 at First Church of God, 344 West Chestnut Street, Lancaster, PA. Visitation will be from 10-11 a.m. with the service following. Interment will be in the Willow Street Mennonite Church Cemetery.

Please omit flowers. Memorials contributions may be made to First Church of God,
(address above) or Frontiers USA, P.O. Box 60730, Phoenix, AZ 85082-0730, memo: Eric
Ludwig.

Cemetery Details

Willow Street Mennonite Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Church of God
344 W. Chestnut Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Service

OCT 28. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Church of God
344 W. Chestnut Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Tribute Wall



“ Gladys W. Neff

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ Aunt Gladys was my 2nd surrogate mother. The 1st was her sister, my dear Aunt Nancy who died in 2014. Aunt Gladys and Uncle Elvin took me at around age 12 along with my 2 younger cousins to the 1964 World's Fair in New York City. All I remember is the train ride and what a BIG deal that was to us as farm kids who never got off the farm!

From early on I loved music and especially liked singing Sunday Schools songs and hymns and participating in “Junior Choir.” Many times my parents only wanted to go to Sunday School and then go home. I begged to stay...and was allowed ONLY if Aunt Gladys would bring me home and she never refused. Aunt Gladys and Uncle Elvin were the leaders of “Junior Church.” That's right. It was just like regular church but geared towards kids and was held in the basement. We sang, had responsive reading, a sermon, and if you squirmed a little no one got into trouble. Both she and Elvin served their church and shared their Faith willingly.

Aunt Gladys always encouraged my musical talents and her daughter, Kay Louise, was my first piano teacher and then taught a few organ lessons to me as well. Her other daughter, Nancy Marie, would take me trick or treating in her neighborhood as the houses were close together and of course we were alone on the farm.

I'll never forget her giving nature... Her willingness to do anything to help me. She didn't refuse to keep either of our 2 girls, even a last minute request. Our girls loved to go to her house and play in her bear room. When we moved to Michigan and I was so very lonely she would talk to me for hours and always reassure me, “Bunny (that's how she pronounced my name)....it'll be okay...”

I have many of her traits – I love pink and blue. I love preschoolers! They're so much more interesting to talk to than adults. I am caring and compassionate. She loved Charlie Brown and so do I. Most of my birthday/Christmas presents were Peanuts books that contained those famous comic strips.

Thank you, Aunt Gladys, for giving me so much of you. Love always...

Bonnie Nitz - October 26, 2016 at 05:47 PM

AL

Beautiful tribute! It brought happy tears to my eyes.

Amy Ludwig - October 27, 2016 at 03:36 PM

RF

“ *When I was a child I attended Memorial Presbyterian Church in Lancaster. Gladys would bring all the children from the daycare to Bible School every morning for two weeks. What a wonderful memory of a wonderful Christian servant!*

Renee F. - October 26, 2016 at 05:27 AM

AL

“ *The first time I met Granny (Gladys) was when Eric and I started dating. We went to Willow Valley for lunch, and then back to the house for a tour of the "Bear Room" and a lively game of pinochle (Grandpa & I won.) My first impressions of her was she was small but mighty. :) She read the newspaper daily and was up on current events. She hosted many holidays and family meals, and I always felt welcomed. Granny will truly be missed, but I'm glad God took her Home before she had to leave her home. What she has left is a beautiful legacy! Love, Amy*

Amy L. - October 24, 2016 at 08:45 PM

JN

Gladys was a true servant of God. As her prayer buddy from First Church, I was blessed to have spent many meals, bear room visits, and mother daughter banquets with her. She loved me as one of her own. My heart aches that she is gone, but she is with Jesus. I will miss her phone calls, her stories of her dog, and the bears. However, she has the best seat in the house now to keep us all prayed over and protected! Love you Gladys!

Jessica Noll - October 25, 2016 at 05:36 AM